



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

AUGUST 8, 2006

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 26

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

While Congress is out of session, I will be traveling across the 31st District to hear the concerns of my constituents. Although I travel to my home in Round Rock and throughout Central Texas every weekend, August gives me an opportunity to spend an extended period of time in Texas.

Last week I participated in a Central Texas Business Conference and the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Round Rock Premium Outlet mall. Both of these events are evidence that our policies are successful in helping our economy grow.

In this week's Courier, you will hear about the latest efforts in Congress to protect Second Amendment rights, keep our children safe from predators, and to secure our nation's borders. Have fun testing your House of Representatives knowledge on the kid's page quiz!

Until next week,

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

The right to keep and bear arms is one of our most important rights because the Founding Fathers intended it to be the means by which Americans can guarantee all other rights. Protecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is a priority of mine, which is why I am a member of the Second Amendment Caucus in Congress. This caucus is comprised of members who believe in defending the rights of gun owners. I believe that federal gun regulations often create burdens for law-abiding citizens and infringe upon constitutional rights provided by the Second Amendment.

The House recently passed the Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act, which would prohibit any agency using federal disaster relief funds from seizing firearms from law-abiding citizens in their cars, homes, and businesses. I cosponsored this bill because individuals acting within the law should be able to protect themselves and their property from harm, especially during a time of disaster. I am proud to support a bill that upholds the rights of gun owners to keep and bear arms during a vulnerable and dangerous time. Further, this legislation would not prevent confiscating guns from convicted felons, and would have no effect on law enforcement operations outside of disaster relief situations.

This bill was drafted to address the actions of some officials in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. There were numerous reports of law-abiding residents having their

CONTENTS

Second Amendment
1-2

Protecting Children
2-3

Border Security
3

*Community
Office Hours*
3

*Kid's Page: House of
Representatives Quiz*
4

*Coloring Page:
President Nixon*
5





firearms confiscated. In fact, at least one highly-qualified search and rescue team was prevented from joining in relief efforts because the team included individuals with firearms, although these individuals had been deputized as federal law enforcement officers.

I have also cosponsored a bill that would reduce the risk of firearms being stolen during interstate shipping. The Firearm Commerce Modernization Act would allow federal firearms licensees to transfer any firearm to out-of-state residents as long as those transfers comply with the laws of both states. It would also allow for the transfer of firearms at out-of-state gun shows as long as those transfers comply with the laws of both states. Under current law, federal firearms licensees are permitted to display and take orders for firearms at out-of-state gun shows, but they must return to their business locations to initiate the subsequent transfers of those firearms. This shipping requirement leaves the system vulnerable to the theft of guns.

Although I believe law abiding citizens have a right to bear arms, we also have to ensure that those who abuse this right are held accountable. As an elected state judge for 20 years, I have a strong record of holding individuals accountable for breaking the law. I am a cosponsor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Modernization and Reform Act, which establishes common sense graduated civil penalties, including fines, suspension and or revocation, for individuals or companies who violate gun laws. The penalties are based on the severity of the violation, as well as the licensee's prior record. It also implements a review process that is fair and consistent.

I will remain committed to protecting all Americans' Second Amendment right to bear arms. The Second Amendment to the Constitution clearly protects the fundamental right of individuals to keep and bear arms for defense, recreation, and collection. I will continue to support initiatives that recognize the right of lawful citizens to carry a weapon both at home and while traveling the nation.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM PREDATORS

The sexual abuse and exploitation of a child is one of the most despicable and vicious crimes conceivable. As a father of four, I feel strongly about doing everything we can to keep our children protected—especially from sexual predators. On July 27, 2006, the President signed into law a bill that takes important action to protect our vulnerable youth from these vile perpetrators. I am proud to have strongly supported the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.

Every parent's worst nightmare is having a child become the victim of a violent criminal or sexual predator. Tragically, this nightmare becomes reality for too many families. The law is named for Adam Walsh who went missing from a department store 25 years ago, and was later found murdered. Adam's parents, John and Reve Walsh, turned their family's tragedy into action, advocating for victims rights and missing children. This law will help prevent this nightmare for families by strengthening federal laws to protect our children from sexual and other violent crimes, prevent child pornography, and make the Internet safer for our sons and daughters.

More specifically, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act will integrate the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensure that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States, helping prevent sex offenders from evading detection by moving from state to state. Data drawn from this comprehensive registry will be made available to the public through the Dr. Sjoedin National Sex Offender Public Website, which will allow people to search for sex offender information their community.

The law also imposes tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes against children and increases penalties for crimes such as sex trafficking of children and child prostitution. Grants to States are provided to help them institutionalize sex offenders who have shown they cannot change their behavior and are about to be released from prison.

New regional Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforces have been authorized to provide funding and training to help State and local law enforcement combat crimes involving the sexual exploitation of minors on the Internet.

Further, it creates a new national child abuse registry and requires investigators to conduct background checks on adoptive and foster parents before they are granted custody of a child. By giving child protective service professionals in all 50 States access to this critical information, we will improve their ability to investigate child abuse cases and help ensure that vulnerable children are not put into situations of abuse or neglect.

This law is in line with a section of the AMBER Alert law that I authored requiring the Department of Justice to review the background approval process for volunteers of child related organizations. This pilot program requires the Attorney General's office to look at the current state of fingerprinting technology and the federal and state governments' capacity to perform these checks.

As a district judge for 20 years, I put criminals behind bars so our children might live in



a safer world. Enacting this law sends a clear message that those who prey on our children will be caught, prosecuted, and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked to protect our nation's children, and I will continue that fight for the safety of every vulnerable child.

CARTER EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AMNESTY PROPOSALS *Discusses Immigration with DHS Secretary Chertoff*

I recently had the opportunity to ask a member of the Administration, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, a series of questions related to border security and immigration. During a hearing of the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee, I discussed the feasibility of implementing various border security proposals.

I strongly believe that we have to protect the border first. I went to El Paso three weeks ago, and the additional resources at the border are producing real results. We need to continue to use resources along our border to make it even more secure, but we are making progress.

The amnesty provided by the Reid-Kennedy bill would completely overwhelm our immigration system and put our nation's security at risk. In Texas, there is already a six year delay in immigration cases. We simply cannot dump an additional 12 million people into the system and expect our illegal immigration situation to improve.

I have also expressed concerns regarding the impact that broad amnesty would have on Social Security in written testimony submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee.

In my statement I wrote that, "amnesty would place a severe strain on Social Security to meet the needs of the more than 10 million new workers suddenly eligible to receive benefits—benefits they have accrued be openly ignoring our laws... We also need to undertake a serious study of the potential costs to federal, state, and community welfare programs and educational systems associated with the legalization of millions of illegal immigrants.



**Video of my exchange with Secretary Chertoff is available at
<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia>.**

NEW COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS FOR AUGUST

Congressman Carter's *staff* will hold community office hours at the following time and location. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9th

9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Salado

Salado Community Center
601 North Main
Salado, Texas

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Gatesville

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce
2307 Hwy. 36 South
Gatesville Texas

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24th

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hico

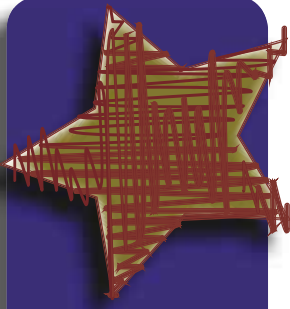
Hico City Hall
120 West First Street
Hico, Texas

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Stephenville

Stephenville City Hall
298 West Washington
Stephenville, Texas



Kids' Page

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES QUIZ

1. How many Members are in the House of Representatives?

- 400 Members
- 435 Members
- 450 Members
- 465 Members

2. The process that determines how many Representatives each state has is called:

- Appropriation
- Cloture
- Apportionment
- Checks and Balances

3. How long is a Representative's term?

- 2 years
- 4 years
- 5 years
- 8 years

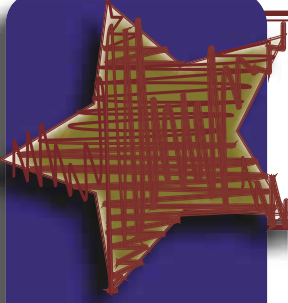
4. How often can Representatives run for office?

- Only once
- Every five years
- Once every census
- As often as they want

5. Representatives must be at least what age when entering office?

- 25 years old
- 35 years old
- 40 years old
- There is no minimum age

*Answers on page 4.



Color the President



Richard Nixon

Presidential Number: 37th

Years he was President: 1969-1974

State Represented: New York

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): He was president at the end of the Vietnam War.

Personal

Birthday: January 9, 1913

How old would he be this year? 93

School(s) attended: Whittier College, Duke Law School

Wife: Pat Nixon

Occupation(s) before he was President: Lawyer, businessman

Other way(s) he served: Congressman, U.S. Senator

Height: 5 feet, 11 inches

Hobbies or Sports: Bowling, golf, piano

Pets: Dogs, a French poodle named Vicky, a Yorkshire terrier named Pasha and an Irish setter named King Timahoe.

Life in America

How would he have traveled? Helicopter, airplane, car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, typed letter

U.S. Population when term began: 203,302,031

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50